

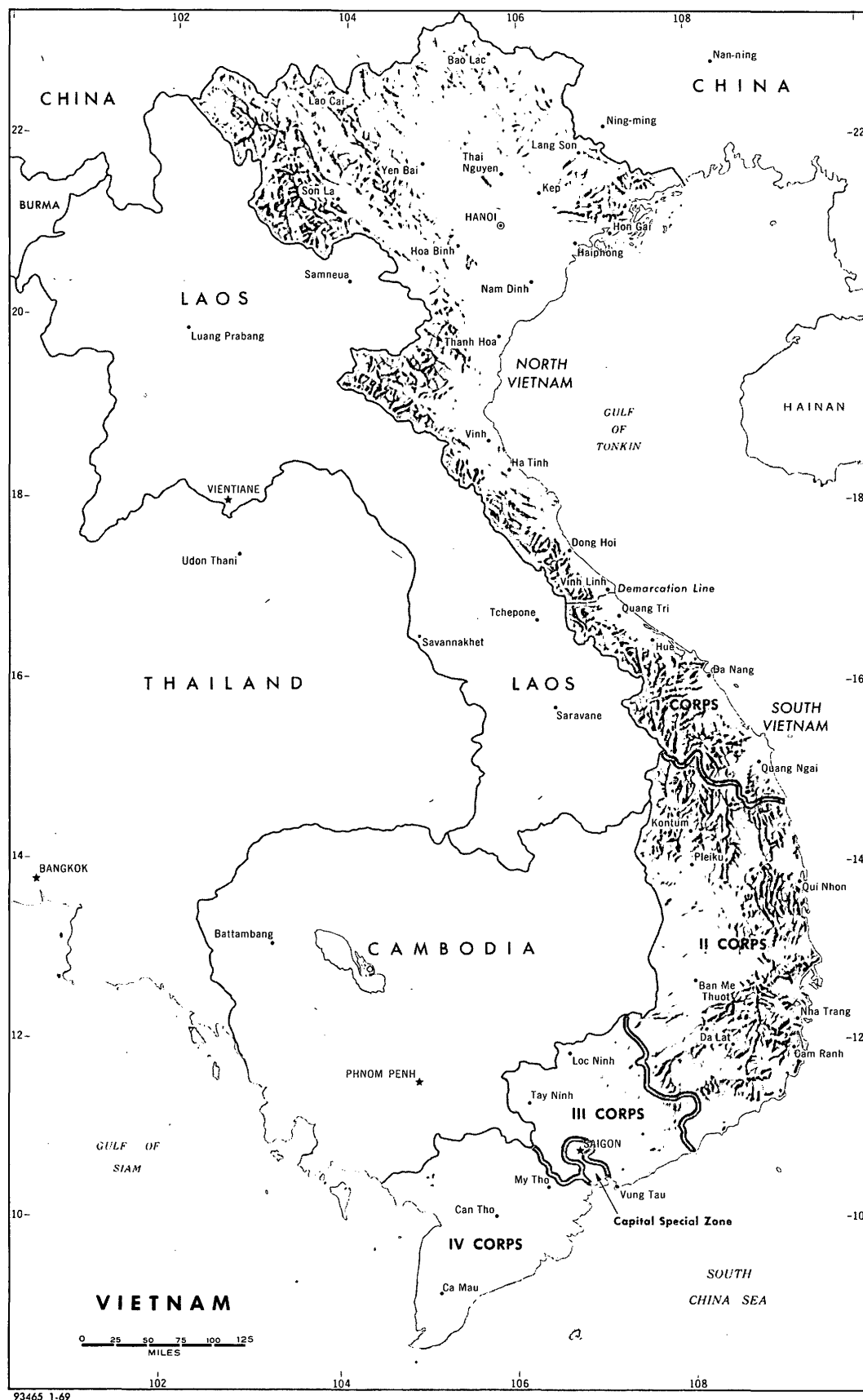
The President's Daily Brief

13 March 1969



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~~*Top Secret*~~



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TOP SECRET

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF

13 MARCH 1969



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TOP SECRET

14 March 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
13 MARCH 1969

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli jets early today struck at Arab guerrilla posts in northwest Jordan. Amman claimed there were a number of civilian casualties. (FBIS; press, 14 Mar 69)

* * *

UN observers report a considerable strengthening of Israeli forces in the Suez Canal sector, beginning the evening of 12 March. [REDACTED]

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EUROPE

There is nothing significant to report.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

There is nothing significant to report.

VIETNAM

Enemy-initiated activity continued at a generally low level through the early hours of 14 March. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

KOREA

North Korean border guards yesterday again fired on a US outpost along the western sector of the DMZ. No casualties were reported. (Press)

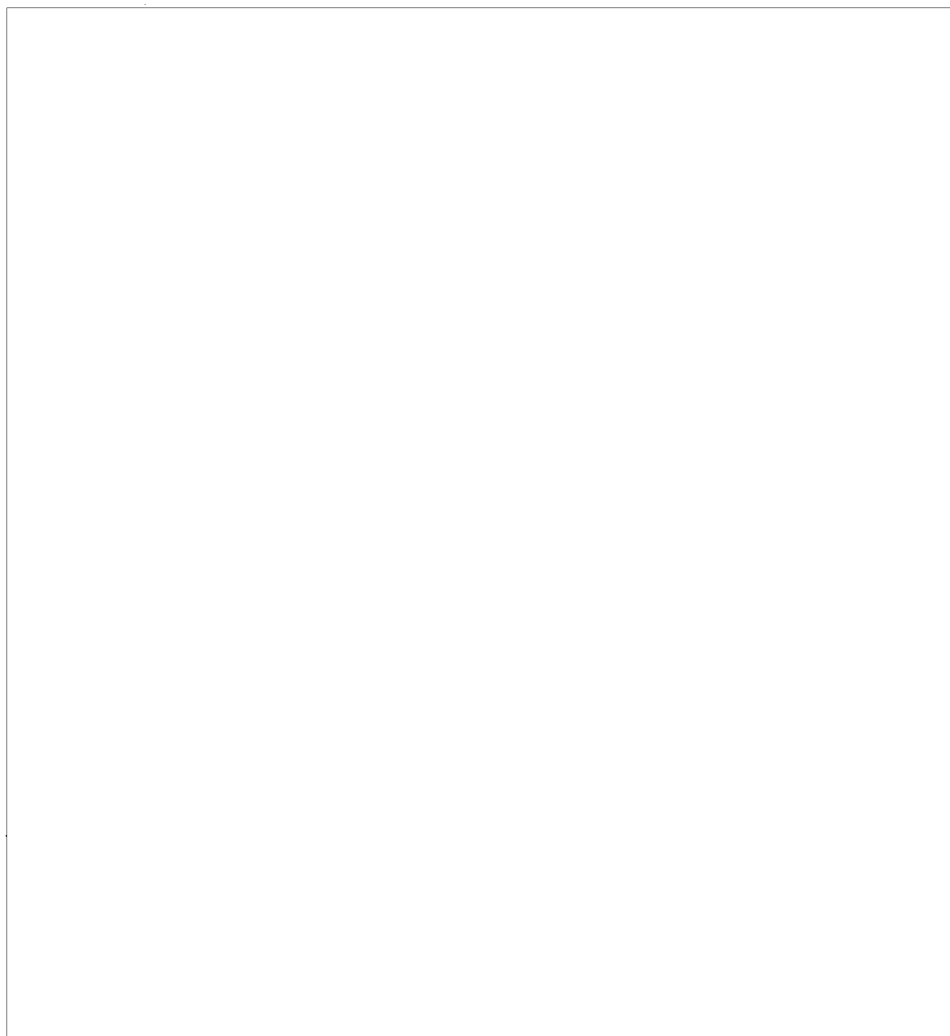
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VIETNAM

Recent developments in North Vietnam back up other evidence that Hanoi is planning to go ahead with additional military actions in the South which run a high risk of US retaliation.

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Hanoi clearly believes that stronger Communist military action is needed to get things moving in the right direction

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in Paris. Nothing in its current actions suggest it is likely to be deterred by the threat of US air attacks. It must calculate that the public outcry against escalation of the war would be directed mainly against the US if new air strikes were launched against the North. Moreover, the North Vietnamese almost certainly are confident that the bombing would not last long and that they could, in any event, get it stopped fairly easily by yet another temporary curb on their military activity in the South.

* * *

In South Vietnam, Communist 50X1 divisions in the III Corps - Saigon sector have been noted recently moving to forward staging areas. Major Communist forces are now in position to launch heavy, coordinated attacks against allied bases and urban areas throughout Tay Ninh Province and adjacent areas, as well as against the Bien Hoa - Long Binh military complex. Although the enemy's divisional forces do not yet constitute an immediate threat to Saigon itself, there are some indications of preparations by independent Viet Cong forces in the Communist subregions south and east of Saigon for possible combat operations against the capital.

Enemy action remained at a generally low level during the past 24 hours. In I and III Corps, however, ARVN units took heavy casualties in clashes with Communist units.

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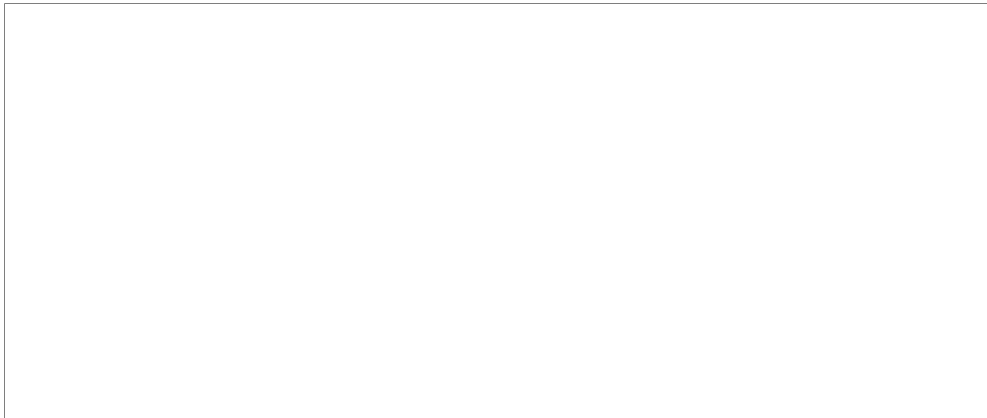
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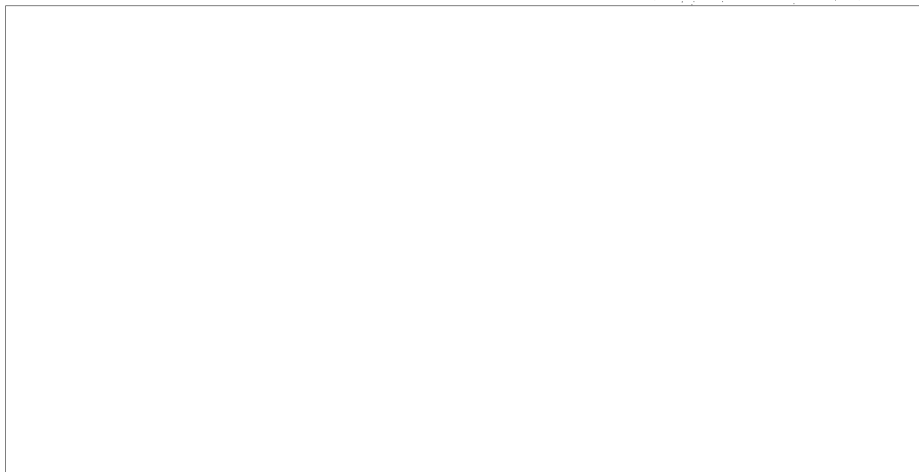


EUROPE

Britain's position in international payments took a sharp turn for the worse last month with the emergence of a trade deficit of about \$150 million. Imports edged up \$30 million despite the braking effect anticipated from the restrictive measures adopted last November. Even more discouraging was the fall of \$96 million from January in exports. This decline--the largest since the devaluation--is partially explained by the US dock strike.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

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[REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] 50X1

* * *

A Soviet TU-95 heavy bomber participating in a 50X1
large-scale exercise violated US airspace over Shemya
Island in the Aleutians yesterday. [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] 50X1

The bomber was taking part in a training mission 50X1
launched from the central USSR and involving 19 heavy
bombers and at least eight tanker aircraft. This mis-
sion may be part of a major exercise under way in the
Long Range (Strategic) Air Force. [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED]

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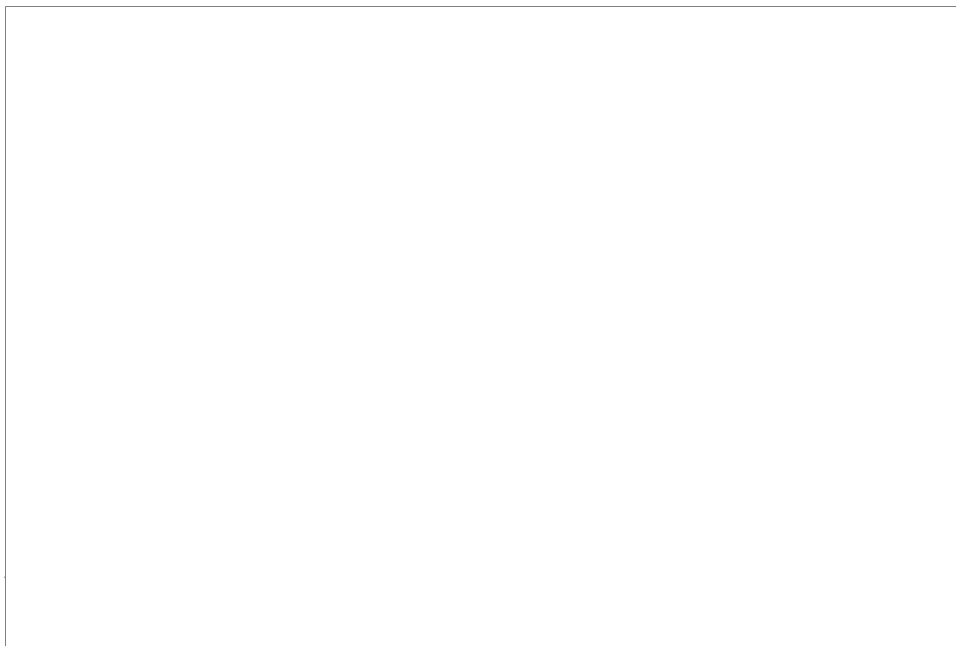
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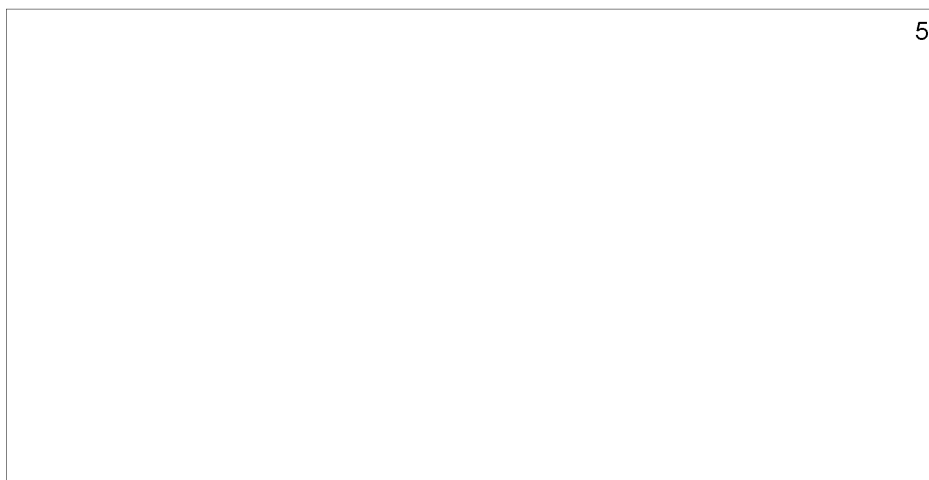
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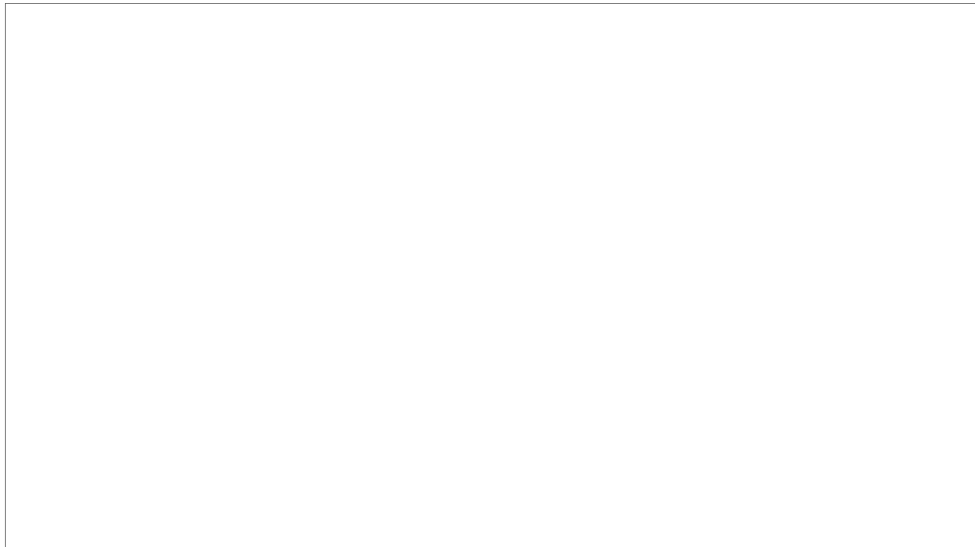
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PHILIPPINES



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PAKISTAN

There are persistent rumors that martial law will soon be declared in East Pakistan. These rumors may be true because conditions there have reached a state of near anarchy and the provincial government has virtually abdicated its authority to student leaders.

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Ayub's initial claims that he had made real progress in his negotiations with a disunited opposition seem premature. The agreement he announced today probably includes the only changes he would like to see made.

Nevertheless, East Pakistani leader Mujibur Rahman, whom Ayub evidently agreed to back as his successor called the conference a complete failure because it did not resolve

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fundamental regional issues. Mujibur--a long-time advocate of autonomy for East Pakistan--said he has pulled his party out of the moderate eight-party opposition coalition which has been negotiating with Ayub. Mujibur almost certainly believes that he cannot afford to support an agreement which contains no concessions to improve East Pakistan's position relative to West Pakistan.

It seems unlikely that any agreement can be effected without Mujibur's cooperation. Ayub has warned that if a workable compromise is not reached he will propose his own solutions.

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